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Claim Amendments

1. (original) An electronic identification system including:

an interrogator for transmitting a radio frequency interrogation signal;

a plurality of radio frequency transponders;

each transponder being operative in response to the interrogation signal to respond with a forward error correctable data message including transponder identifying base data encoded as first symbol characters in accordance with a forward error correcting code and first check characters on the transponder identifying base data as defined in the forward error correcting code, and other base data encoded as second symbol characters in accordance with the forward error correcting code and second check characters on the other base data as defined in the forward error correcting code; the first and second check characters for facilitating reconstruction of the transponder identifying base data and other base data in the event of corruption of the forward error correctable data message during transmission; and

the interrogator including

receiver means for receiving the forward error correctable data message; and

data processor means programmed to utilize data relating to the forward error correcting code, the first and second symbol characters and the first and second check characters in the received forward error correctable data message, to reconstruct the transponder identifying base data in the event of corruption of the received forward error correctable data message.

2. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the forward error correcting code is a member of the class of trellis codes.

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3. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the forward error correcting code is a member of the class of convolutional codes.

4. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the forward error correcting code is a member of the class of linear block codes.

5. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 4 wherein the forward error correcting code is a Hamming Code.

6. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 4 wherein the forward error correcting code is a Binary Golay Code.

7. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 4 wherein the forward error correcting code is a Reed-Muller Code.

8. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the forward error correcting code is a member of the class of cyclic block codes.

9. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 8 wherein the forward error correcting code is a Fire Code.

10. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 8 wherein the forward error correcting code is a Bose-Chaudauri-Hocquenghem Code.

11. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 8 wherein the forward error correcting code is a Reed-Solomon Code.

12. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 1 including a code generator means for generating the forward error correctable data message by encoding the transponder identifying base data and other base data as first and second symbol characters in accordance with the forward error correcting code and for generating the first and second check characters on the transponder identifying base data and other base data as defined in the forward error correcting code, the code generator means being separate from the transponders; and wherein each transponder includes: a data memory arrangement into which the forward error correctable data message generated by the code generator means is pre-programmable to be stored therein; and control circuitry for causing the transponder to respond with the stored forward error correctable data message in response to the interrogation signal.

13. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 12 wherein the code generator means forms part of the interrogator.

14. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each transponder includes: a data memory arrangement configured to be programmed with the transponder identifying base data and other base data for storage therein; and local code generator means forming part of the transponder for locally generating the forward error correctable data message by encoding the transponder identifying base data and other base data as the first and the second symbol characters in accordance with the error correcting code and for generating the first check characters and the second check characters as defined in the forward error correcting code.

15. (original) An electronic identification system including:
an interrogator for transmitting a first radio frequency interrogation signal;
a plurality of radio frequency transponders;

each transponder being operative in response to the interrogation signal to respond with

a forward error correctable data message including base data in the form of identification

code data for the transponder encoded as a first set of symbol characters in accordance

with a first forward error correcting code, a first set of check characters on the

identification code data as defined in the first forward error correcting code, other base

data encoded as a second set of symbol characters in accordance with a second forward

error correcting code and a second set of check characters on the other base data as

defined in the second forward error correcting code, for facilitating reconstruction of the

identification code data and other base data in the event of corruption of the forward error

correctable data message during transmission; and

the interrogator including

receiver means for receiving the forward error correctable data message; and

data processor means having data relating to the first forward error correcting code, the

first set of symbol characters and the first set of check characters in the received forward

error correctable data message; and further having data relating to the second forward

error correcting code, the second set of symbol characters and the second set of check

characters in the received forward error correctable data message, to reconstruct the

identification code data and the other base data respectively, in the event of corruption of

the received forward error correctable data message.

16. (original) An electronic identification system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first

forward error correcting code and the second forward error correcting code are of

different types.

17. (original) A system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the interrogator is controllable to

transmit the first and a second interrogation signal; wherein each transponder is

operative in response to the first interrogation signal to respond with a first forward error

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correctable data message including the first set of symbol characters and the first set of

check characters; wherein each transponder is further responsive in response to the

second interrogation signal to respond with a second error correctable data message

including the second set of symbol characters and the second set of check characters;

and wherein the data processor means is programmed to utilize the data relating to the

first error correcting code, the first set of symbol characters and the first set of check

characters in the received first forward error correctable data message to reconstruct the

identification code data in the event of corruption of the received first forward error

correctable data message; and wherein the data processor means is further programmed

to utilize the data relating to the second error correcting code, the second set of symbol

characters and the second set of check characters in the received second forward error

correctable data message, to reconstruct the other base data in the event of corruption of

the received second forward error correctable data message.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)